

Indecent representation of women

3483. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been an increase in cases of indecent representation of women through advertisements both printed and electronic;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibited) Act, 1986;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to check rampant misuse of print and electronic media to represent women in an indecent way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the data relating to crimes against women maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the following number of cases have been reported in the country under the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 during the years 2003 to 2005:

Year	No. of cases reported
2003	1043
2004	1378
2005	2917

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal includes amendments in the definition of the terms 'indecent representation of women' and 'advertisement' and to increase the penalty for the offences under the Act.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Action taken by the Government to check indecent representation of women in the electronic and print media

As regards the electronic media, Prasar Bharati has both Programme and Advertisement Codes which *inter-alia*, prohibit telecast/broadcast of any programme or advertisement, which contains anything obscene. Doordarshan and All India Radio abide by the codes while telecasting/broadcasting their programmes.

The programmes of all Satellite Channels, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the programmes and advertising codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulations) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code prohibits carriage of such programme in Cable Service, which offend good taste or decency, contain anything obscene and are not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition. Programmes meant for children are prohibited from carrying explicit scenes of violence.

The Government has constituted a Committee to look into complaints regarding any programme of any channel not being a conformity with the prescribed Programme Code. Government has constituted another committee to look into violations of the Advertising Code.

As per Notification dated 2-8-2006 issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, no film or film song or film promo or film trailer or music video or music albums or their promos, shall be carried through cable service unless it has been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification as suitable for unrestricted public exhibition in India.

In so far as the Print media is concerned, the Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory authority established for preserving the freedom of the Press and for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. PCI has set the Norms for Journalistic Conduct according to which Newspapers/Journalists shall not publish anything which is obscene, vulgar or offensive to public and not in good taste.